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JUNE 2006 NUMBER 466

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MAD (ISSN 0024 9319) is published monthly by E.C. Publications, Inc., 1700 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. Subscription in U.S.A.: 12 issues $24.00 or 24 issues $45.00 or 36 issues $60.00. Outside U.S.A. (including Canada): 12 issues $30.00 or 24 issues $57.00 or 36 issues $78.00. (Canadian price has GST tax included.)

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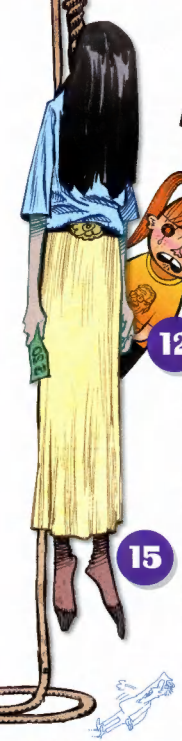
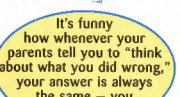
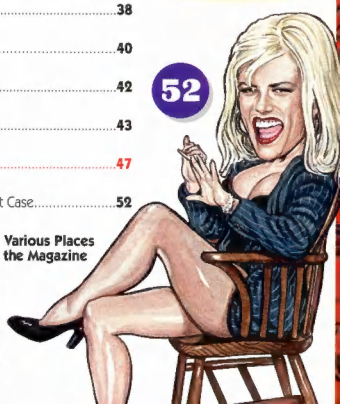




It's funny how whenever your parents tell you to "think about what you did wrong," your answer is always the same — you got caught!

FRONT COVER AND POSTER ARTIST: MARK FREDRICKSON



FAMILY ISSUES

When I was about 11 years old, I remember my parents hassling my older teenage brother whenever they found a MAD in his room. Like a bratty sister, I joined in the attack and promised to be a good girl and never delight in such a magazine. Now 31 years later, my teenage son has discovered MAD and true to my earlier vow, I promptly threw a parental hissy fit. He begged me to read just one page which I thought was the least I could do before I threw it out. Well, you guessed it, I was instantly hooked and now I get it. I just want to know if you can ever forgive me for being such a jerk. I will gladly do penance or community service to pay for my mistakes.

Gina Sahin, Hampton Bays, NY

Gina In A Bottle — The only possible solution to atone for your sins is buying your son a three-year subscription to MAD. While you're at it, be a nice sister and buy your brother a subscription as well (you brown-nosing fink)! —Ed.

READER ALERT

Hey, Chuckles — remember, when sending in photographs of any kind, please be sure to include an e-mail address or phone number, so we can contact you!

TEXT SUPPORT

I was recently banned from reading your oh-so-righteous magazine by my parents. When I thought there was no way to reach your mind-droning magazine, it hit me. I was reading my History textbook when I realized that my parents could not ban me from your magazine. You have left your dirty mark on history, and no one can escape it. In my book, it says "Some teenagers rebelled by reading materials such as MAD Magazine, which made fun of 1950s society." Without knowing it, you have now become a part of America's dark side and I applaud you.

Alex Marzano, Long Grove, IL

Marzipan — We suggest that your parents contact Gina Sahin, and hopefully they'll have a similar change of heart. Better yet, show them the history book — and maybe they'll ban you from reading *that* as well! —Ed.

THE BIG PARTY

Spy Vs. Spy is the best part of MAD Magazine! I cannot wait until the next issue! Thank you for making me laugh!

Abraham Blanchard, Cedar Falls, IA

Honest Abe — Thanks for sending in pictures from your 7th birthday party! We hope that when you blew out the candles, you wished for a better cake next year! —Ed.

If you have a MAD-themed party, we'd love to see the pics (be sure to tell us what the party was for!) Send them to Amy "The Big Party" c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019!

BRAVE'S NEW WORLD

This letter is in regards to your article "Ugly Issues Gay Cowboys are Forced to Contend With" (MAD #463). I feel that there are some things about us "Indians" that you should be aware of: 1) We are NOT "Squaws" — this is a white man's term, not ours. 2) Before Europeans came here, we honored homosexuals as wise people. They were called "Two Spirits" because they understood things from both the male and female perspective. They were also teachers and were allowed to marry. It wasn't until the white men came with their warped ideas that some of us changed. Love your mag, though!

Carol Schneider
Susquahannock/Cherokee, Dundee, NY

HEY! CHECK OUT THE WAMPUM ON THAT SQUAW! AND SHE'S GIVING YOU THE HAIRY EYEBALL. BIG TIME, DUDE !!!
Although they are otherwise keenly attuned to all things in nature, Indians have absolutely no gaydar to speak of.

Carol-Full-of-Monkeys — Dammit, you're right! We gave John Caldwell (the author of the Gay Cowboy piece) a $5,000 research budget to get all of the facts straight. It looks like John took that money and blew it all on his gambling addiction. On the plus side, he tends to frequent the Native-American owned Mohegan Sun casino, so, in a way, he did pay tribute to your people! Thanks for writing and see you at the Pow-Wow! —Ed.

The Big Easel

What can I say? It's been a long, cold winter! If you don't believe gemstones are "clever items around the house" watch Jewelry TV and then you try to do something more creative with all the gemstones you ordered. I think a 400 Carat AI is quite stunning, a real jewel!

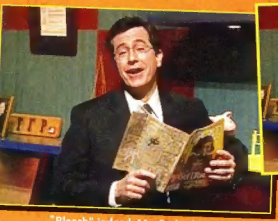
Marguerite Fix, Lapeer, MI

Fixer Upper — Nice job — but we've *never* lived through a winter that was so long and cold that we resorted to buying several pounds of gemstones and then arranging them into the image of Alfred! Unfortunately, because of your "artwork," the value of each and every one of those gems has depreciated drastically. We hope you have a busier Spring! —Ed.

P.S. We're always looking for depictions of Alfred using creative and offbeat materials! Send your creations to Amy "The Big Easel," c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019!

A SLOW FAKE NEWS DAY

On the March 13th episode of Comedy Central's *The Colbert Report*, host Stephen Colbert ended the show by wishing long-time MAD artist Al Jaffee a happy 85th birthday. Below is a transcript of the segment (with pictures)! No word on whether Al got any of the cake!



"Blecch" indeed, Mr. Crabotkin.

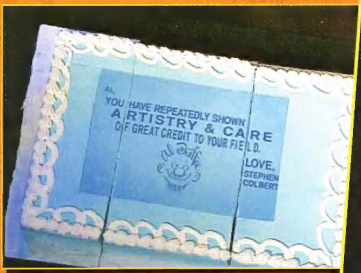
Oh, good evening. I was just reading this copy of MAD Magazine. Great stuff.

Now, I was never a fan of MAD as a kid. I just pretended to read it on the playground. I would hide my copy of *National Review* behind it. But as I grew older, I developed a greater appreciation for MAD's so-called "Usual Gang of Idiots."

And perhaps no member of that gang has been more idiotic than that great inventor of the MAD Fold-In, Al Jaffee, who turns 85 today.

Al taught us that the form of inflation most Americans are fighting is getting fat.

And the best way to see stars isn't through telescopes, but rather by falling off a skateboard.



Thanks for all the great work, Al. For the occasion, we got you a cake. It says, "You have repeatedly shown artistry & care of great credit to your field." But you know, there's a simpler way to say that...

Happy birthday, Al.

Al's response? "Blecch" indeed, Mr. Colbert!

A DOWNLOAD OF CRAP

Your "MAD Presents iToons" article (MAD #463) was one of the best I've ever read. Despite numerous attempts to get my parents to buy me an iPod, the only thing I've gotten out of it is a broken CD player. When I read the article, I decided that maybe it's safer to *not* have an iPod!

Victoria Price, St. Peters, MO

Sugar and Spice and Everything Price — Yeah, maybe your parents didn't get you an iPod for your own safety, but we're pretty sure they're just super cheap! Enjoy that "safe" busted CD player — now, if you'll excuse us, we have to go and listen to one of the 15,000 songs we have on our iPod! —Ed.

READER ALERT II

Everyone lucky enough to have their letter printed on this Letters Page will be sent a DVD of the *The Producers* (starring Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane and rated PG-13) courtesy of our friends at Universal Home Video. For those of you who didn't have their letters printed, (or can't get to the Broadway show) the DVD is available May 16!

ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH

Hey, thanks for printing my envelope in the September 2004 issue. It was a big deal for me to see some of my stuff in print. Yeah, I know I need to get out more. I thought I would put the screws to your regular guy Jim (Hutchings) the Canuck with another envelope plus a little challenge propaganda. If you like the art and a little friendly competition, then I'll keep sending them as inspiration strikes.

Matt Handfield, Holyoke, MA

Talk to the Handfield — We applaud your patriotic attempts to bring the coveted Envelope of the Month title back to the good ol' U.S. of A! And while we have nothing against a little friendly competition, we would hate to see this turn into a Biggie/Tupac-style feud! That being said, Jim, Matt is clearly goading you into a fight. Are you going to take that? We wouldn't even be surprised if he had a hand in the recent disappearance of your last Envelope of the Month (see Letters Page MAD #463). Don't disappoint us, Jim, we eagerly await your response to Matt! —Ed.

MATT HANDFIELD'S ENVELOPE...CONTAINING HIS INCENDIARY CHALLENGE TO JIM HUTCHINGS

MY ENVELOPE THIS MONTH IS DEDICATED TO THE BUSTIEST BLONDE BOMBSHELL TO EVER GRACE THE PAGES OF MAD MAGAZINE, THE GRAY SPY!
AND ONE OTHER THING...
...IN YOUR FACE JIM HUTCHINGS!!
HANDFIELD '04

MAD KIDS #4 ON SALE JULY 18!

NEXT MONTH IN MAD #467 ON SALE JUNE 13!

REJECTED CARS FROM THE MOVIE *CARS*! AND WE DECONSTRUCT *THE DAILY SHOW*!

NEXT MONTH IN MAD CLASSICS #8 ON SALE JUNE 13!

20 PAGES ON SUPERMAN, THE 1980's TV CLASSIC *MIAMI VICE*, AND THE SCARY FLICK *THE OMEN*!

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Contributing Artists And Writers
the usual gang of idiots

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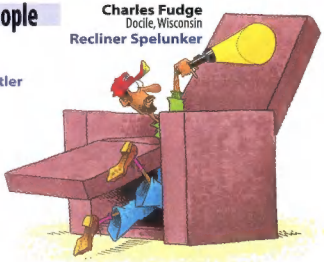
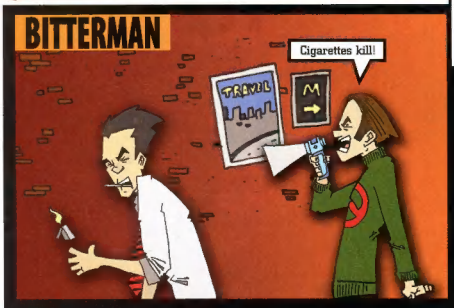


Wink Knuckles
Sputum, Georgia
Tick Whisperer



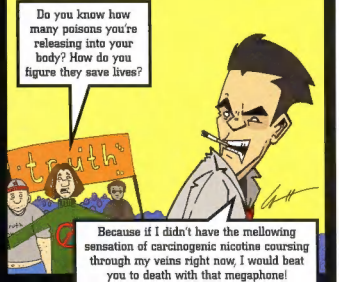
We are TRUTH! A national, non-profit organization that educates the public about the dangers of smoking! Big tobacco is responsible for creating addicts! We are committed to preventing the weak from dumping millions into an industry that profits from the ruined health of simple-minded Americans!

You hippie jackass! You go to college for a few years and think that gives you the divine right to publicly humiliate me and other hard-working people? You think by creeping up on me with a megaphone and a video camera you're magically going to cure me of a deadly addiction I've enjoyed for over a decade?

Besides, you have your facts wrong. Cigarettes *save* lives!

Do you know how many poisons you're releasing into your body? How do you figure they save lives?

Because if I didn't have the mellowing sensation of carcinogenic nicotine coursing through my veins right now, I would beat you to death with that megaphone!



PAGES

Saddam Sez:

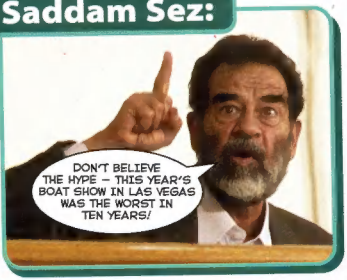


PHOTO: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

The Da Vinci Cold

If you're a keen teen lookin' for awesome advice, then just...

Ask Lynne Cheney

...wife of our beloved Vice President. For candid counseling on sensitive subjects, Mrs. Cheney always has your best interests at heart.

Dear Mrs. Cheney:

The other day a couple of my friends were bullying a ninth grader. I knew it was the wrong thing to do, but I started bullying the kid too. What worries me is that I really liked it and want to do it again. I've never been a "bad" kid before, but now I'm afraid that I can't help it. What should I do?

—A Troubled Teen

Dear Troubled:

You sound like a young man who wants to do the right thing. Hooray for you! But sometimes doing the right thing is tricky. "Bullying," of course, is wrong. Really, really, really wrong. But sometimes, some people, in certain situations need to be "strenuously persuaded," and that's where a fine American with your — let's call them "proclivities" — comes in. So the question you should be asking yourself is: "Where can a fine young American, such as myself, engage in my God-given 'proclivities' in service to my country?" What if I told you that the answer to that astute question was: "A sparkling beach in the Caribbean, just 90 miles south of Miami"? Sound good? Well, it gets even better! Your good ol' Uncle Sam owns a breathtaking stretch of beachfront property in Cuba known affectionately as "Gitmo." Maybe you've seen it on TV or read about in the newspaper. There are lots of young fellas there with similar "proclivities" to yours, so you'll make lots of friends. And, best of all, you'll have endless opportunities to "strenuously persuade" many suspected terrorists. The federal government will supply all the car batteries and attack dogs you need. You just bring your swimming trunks! And remember: Bullying is wrong. Really, really, really wrong.

Remember! If you're an angst-ridden adolescent with a prickly problem, don't hesitate to ASK LYNNE CHENEY.

CONFUSING ROAD SIGNS

Real Meaning: "Survey Crew"

Misunderstood Meaning: "Beware of Peeping Toms"

Real Meaning: "No Parking between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM"

Misunderstood Meaning: "No Peeing here between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM"

Real Meaning: "Workers Ahead"

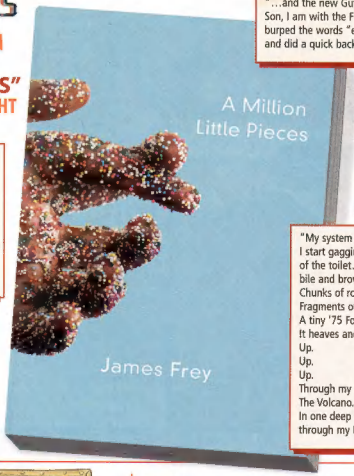
Misunderstood Meaning: "Be Courteous, Curb Your Elephant"

THE FUNDALINI PAGES

FIRST DRAFT EXCERPTS FROM JAMES FREY'S "A MILLION LITTLE PIECES" THAT EVEN HIS PUBLISHER THOUGHT WERE TOO LOOPY TO PRINT

"I wake to the screams of terrified passengers and the feeling of something warm dripping down my chin. It is my Liver. I quickly tuck it back where it should be, scrape the broken teeth out of the hole in my cheek, and, though temporarily blinded by the vomit that has sealed my eyes shut, manage to choke-slam the four Islamic fundamentalists that have hijacked the plane. It isn't until I get us safely landed that I realize I need to wring the Urine out of my corduroys. "

"Doctor Stevens pulls up the stool…I want to hog tie you while we're doing the Root Canals.
Why?
Because James, once I am done twisting your exposed nerves with this bayonet and sanding down your festering gums, sans anesthesia or pain medication, we'll be dropping you, head first, into a vat of pesticide to see if you can break free.
Fine."



"…and the new Guy pulled out his badge and said, Son, I am with the FBI and your number is up…I burped the words "eat me" to the tune of "Beat It" and did a quick back handspring out of the window…"

"I am an Alcoholic and I am a Drug Addict and I am a Criminal and I am a Spokesmodel that abuses Diet Pills and I am Bingo-holic and I am a Meat-eater and I am Man Who Loves too Much and I am a Club-Footed, Steroid-Using Figure Skater."

"My system is poison.
I start gagging and as I gag, I crawl to the front of the toilet…I vomit. The vomit is full of bloody bile and brown sh*t I have never seen before.
Chunks of rotting organs.
Fragments of tongue.
A tiny '75 Ford Pinto Matchbox...It won't stop, It heaves and It comes in violent contractions.
Up.
Up.
Up.
Through my burning, swollen Lips.
The Volcano.
In one deep white-pained spasm I rocket, through my Nostrils, my own 'Nads."

Stuff About THE DA VINCI CODE That Christians *Should* Be Protesting

…That graphic depictions of torture within the "Opus Dei" organization will only serve to give Donald Rumsfeld fresh ideas.

…That its claim that there are living descendants of Jesus Christ will only serve to make the ego-tripping Kanye West even more unbearable.

…That by alleging that the most important figure in human history was actually a woman, *The Da Vinci Code* will further persuade Hillary Clinton to continue her idiotic, ill-fated presidential campaign.

…That forcing Audrey Tatou to make out with the alarmingly lumpy, Pat Riley-haired Tom Hanks will just give the French a justifiable reason to hate us more than they already do.

…That the direction of a long, heavily-plotted, 450-page novel was entrusted to director Ron Howard, the same guy who horribly botched a 61-page Dr. Seuss book, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

…That the movie is taking up the precious time of angry Catholics, who should still be directing their outrage toward the Church's handling of the pedophile priests scandal.

FUNDALINI PHOTO EXCLUSIVE!

UNDENIABLE PROOF THAT PRESIDENT BUSH WAS LYING WHEN HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW DISGRACED LOBBYIST JACK ABRAMOFF!

VENICE, 1998

ORLANDO, 2004

SEATTLE, 2003

FRIENDS OF FUNDALINI

Scott Bricher, John Caldwell, Michael Gallagher, Garth Gerhart, Jeff Kruse, Jacob Lambert, Brian McConnachie, Hermann Mejia, Teresa Burns Parkhurst, Irving Schild, Sam Sisco, Paul Tinelli, Rick Tulka

Though we haven't read the book or seen the movie, somebody told us that in the *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown alleges that Leonardo da Vinci hid secret clues in his famous painting, The Last Supper. Among them: Jesus and Mary Magdalene were lovers and had children, the first of whom they named "Butch." While this is unproven, upon a detailed cursory look at the painting, we uncovered many other "secret clues," which escaped the author's attention... behold...

OTHER HIDDEN M
IN THE LAST SU

Christian magicians note that Bartholomew, the Apostle on the extreme left, is readying himself to do the "watch me yank the tablecloth out without disturbing anything on top of it" trick — perhaps for the first time in history.

The amount of light in the sky seen in the windows and doors in the background show that this Last "Supper" in fact took place in the mid-afternoon, a discreet reminder to those who viewed the artwork in the Middle Ages to hurry down for the Early Bird special at Vespucci's Pizza, Pasta & More, a small bistro in which da Vinci owned a partial interest.

Each of the Apostles' robes corresponds to the color of a marshmallow in a box of Lucky Charms cereal. Biblical scholars disputed this until General Mills added blue diamonds, purple horseshoes, and red balloons in 1975, 1984 and 1989, respectively, fulfilling an ancient prophecy hinted at in Revelations.

Connect the nine largest pieces of bread on the table and a straight line is formed. There are nine spaces on each side of a Monopoly board, not counting corner spaces, and a player travels down them in a straight line. Could the Holy Grail be buried under a little green house on Mediterranean Avenue?

WRITER: SCOTT MAIKO ARTIST: LEONARDO DA VINCI

ESSAGES
PPER

da Vinci biographers insist he did most of his painting early in the morning while thinking about what he was going to have for breakfast that day; that the ceiling of the room in which Christ and the Apostles sit resembles a waffle iron would seem to support this. Others claim that The Last Supper is an unfinished work, and that the artist painted the masterpiece over a billboard for a 15th century appliance store.

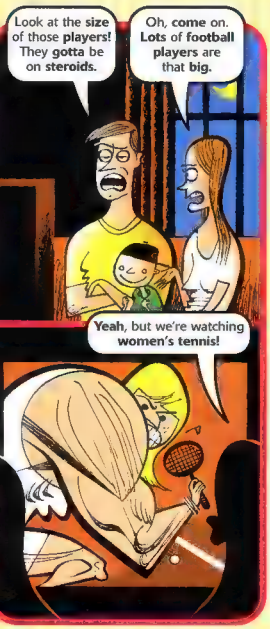
To focus the eye on Christ, da Vinci placed three windows in the background with the largest, the middle window, directly behind His head, creating a sort of halo around Him as He beams calmly. In *Halo 2*, you can jump on the beam under the middle window around the medic hut and avoid being sniped or grenaded. Experts say this may indicate that the legendary Priory of Sion, keepers of the Holy Grail, are now working as videogame developers at Bungie Studios.

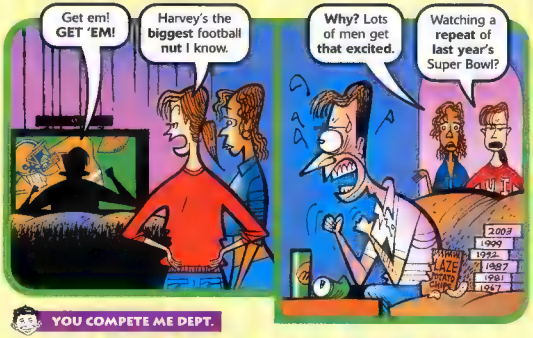
Simon The Zealot, the Apostle on the extreme right, is clearly gesturing with both hands toward Jesus, the significance of which, according to restaurant scholars, is to make sure the waiter gives Christ the check.

Thomas, the sixth apostle from the right is pointing up with his finger, indicating the correct way the posters of the Fresco were to be hung.

Look carefully at the third apostle from the right. Matthew, and note that he is swaying his arms to his side, in a move evocative of a hula dance. Various historians say this indicates that the Holy Grail may well be found hidden in a volcano on the island of Kauai; or, more likely today, in the tiki mug collection of some sad aging hipster.

LAST SUPPER ART COURTESY OF DAVINCIART.TRIPOD.COM


Look at the size of those players! They gotta be on steroids.
Oh, come on. Lots of football players are that big.
Yeah, but we're watching women's tennis!



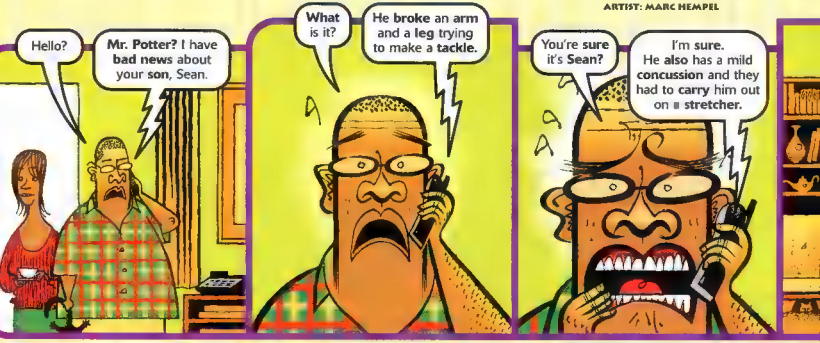
YOU COMPETE ME DEPT.

The MAD WORLD of...

Agreed! My client gets a five million dollar signing bonus, three million for post-game interviews, and another eight million in guaranteed product endorsements.
Now how much are you going to pay him to PLAY?

WRITER: STAN SINBERG

ARTIST: MARC HEMPEL


Hello?
Mr. Potter? I have bad news about your son, Sean.
What is it?
He broke an arm and a leg trying to make a tackle.
You're sure it's Sean?
I'm sure. He also has a mild concussion and they had to carry him out on a stretcher.

It sucks that you didn't make the school team.
It sure does...
KICK
KICK
YANK
Now I'll have to play just for fun.

SPORTS

I still can't believe that the Red Sox actually won a World Series for the first time since 1918.
I know, it's amazing...
We've been waiting 86 years for this!
Boston REDSox

What is it, dear?
It's about Sean...
He finally got into a game!

Tomorrow is the BIG game. So I don't want you having SEX!
I want you sharp! Alert! Prepared! So remember — NO SEX!
You don't have to worry about me, coach.
That's great, Kenny!
Not really. I've been preparing for this game MY WHOLE LIFE.

That was only the 11th time that a third baseman has hit a double with one out in the 7th inning on the 3rd Tuesday in August!
Where do you GET this stuff? That's the dumbest "statistic" I've ever heard!
No it's not…
Actually, it's the eighth dumbest statistic, pulling ahead of a stat in the 1974 Notre Dame–Army game in which a left-footed kicker…
Hey, look! That's Jerry Phillips — our school's star running back!
Hi, Jerry. I didn't know you're into modern dance.
I'm not.
I'm choreographing my new end zone celebration routine.
On my new training regimen I'm drinking eight glasses of "performance-enhancing" water a day.
Right, the stuff with all the vitamins and electrolytes. Has it helped your running?
Absolutely, I'm running into the bushes to take a whiz every five minutes!
Another brutal beating. Do you guys like losing?
Honestly, we don't know, coach…
We have nothing to compare it to.

HOWIE DOODY DEPT.

Welcome to the TV phenomenon that's sweeping the world! It's the highest-rated show in its time period in over 35 third-world countries that feature only one channel of television broadcasting! So far, nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in prize money has been offered!! But thanks to the sneaky way they keep switching those "money cases" around, they've only given away .002% of that amount! The entire one-hour show consists of s-l-o-w-l-y and painfully opening 26 cases. So judge for yourself. Is this TV show...

DULL OR NOT DULL?

I'm **Howdy Mudane**, and I'm standing inside a **set** constructed of **2 X 4s**, frosted **Plexiglas** and **theatrical lighting** designed to look like a **high security vault!** But let's face it, how much **security** do you need to protect **26 cardboard signs** that say **anything** from "**one penny**" to "**$1,000,000**"? Who's gonna **steal those?**

Tonight we will give **someone** in the **audience** the chance to pick **one** of these **cases** and take home **whatever's inside!** In this game there are **no crazy stunts** and **no trivia questions!** And after you see how **dull** it is, you'll wish that we *had* some **crazy stunts** and some **interesting trivia questions!**

For the **entire hour**, all a **contestant** gets to say is "**Deal**" or "**No deal.**" But **those words** can have a **major impact** on a person's **life!** Last night a **contestant** turned down **$178,000 cash** by saying, "**No deal!**" She went home with just **$20!** Actually, she didn't go home with **anything!** Her **body** is still **swinging** from where she **hung** herself **backstage!**

WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO ARTIST: HERMANN MEJIA

Cue the **lights! Cue** the **dramatic music!** This is my **favorite part** of the **show!** Seeing our **26 leggy supermodels** in their **sexy outfits** coming on stage! It takes **one minute**, which means I only have to **breathe life** into the **other 59 minutes!** And trust me: it **isn't easy!** In order to play this game, a **contestant** has to be **lucky, gutsy** and **not easily bored!** It's time to pick our **first contestant** from out of our **audience** tonight! Welcome **Adam Levi!**

Adam, each **beautiful lady** is holding a **case** numbered from **1** to **26!** Inside those **cases** are **26 signs** that represent **various amounts** of **money** from **one penny** to **one million dollars!** And in **my spell-it-out-so-any-idiot-can-understand-it-clearly way**, I want to be **perfectly certain** that you **do understand** that it is **more** to your **advantage** to win **one million dollars** than to win **one penny!** Is that **clear?**

Yes. I **understand!**

I don't know what's in the **cases**, and our lovely **models** don't know, either! The **audience** doesn't know what's in the **cases** and the **people** at **home** don't —

I **understand!** I **know** you have to **kill time**, but let's **play** the **freaking game already!**

We asked you to pick a case and you picked case #9!

I know! But I picked case #9! Why did they bring me case #5?

Er…maybe the producers felt the million dollars was in case #9 too and they didn't want to take any chances! But case #9, case #5, who cares?

I really wanted the one I picked!

You know, Adam, for someone who wanted to get the game going, you're sure slowing it down!

Dr. WAYN FICUS

Adam, you asked for case #9 but we brought you case #5, which you didn't want! So we fixed it by giving you case #11, and we threw out cases 9 and 5!

Threw them out?! Won't that throw the game off? Suppose one of those cases had the million dollars?

Ah, so what's the big deal? Money isn't everything! You said you liked to play games! Let's not spoil it by being greedy! Now pick a different case!

11

Wow, am I lucky! I picked case #17 and inside was one penny!

Yes, it is best when you get rid of the smallest amount of money, but look at case #17 again! I brought it closer so you can see it better! It's not 1¢, it's $100,000!

I swear that was one penny when I opened it!

You're nervous! And with our tricky lighting it's easy to make a mistake like that! And it could happen again! And it probably will! Especially with the bigger amounts!

100,000

.01

I'm now going to introduce you to a very important person!

The banker?

No, someone more important!

More important? Then I brought the studio for support!

Way more important than them! It's the guy who bought these commercials!

Welcome back from the break. We know that to many viewers the commercials are more entertaining than our game, so we had Adam continue to play! While you were watching the commercials, Adam opened six more cases! Here are the amounts left in the remaining cases!

$	1	$ 5,000	Tunisian Dinar
$	5	10,000	Ukraine Hryvnia
$	10	25,000	Zambian Kwacha
$	50	50,000	
		200,000	Romanian Leu
		300,000	Philippine Peso
		400,000	Samoan Tala
		$ 1,000,000	

What do those foreign amounts come to in American currency?

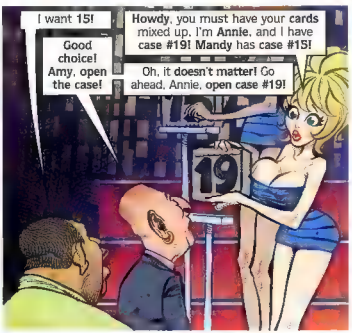
I don't know! Those cases were left over from all the foreign versions of this show and it seemed a waste not to use them! Let's pick — wait a minute! The phone is ringing! Do you know who that is?

Yes, it's the banker! He offers us contestants money not to go on if he thinks we'll win too much! But so far I don't seem to be on a winning streak!

That's why the banker is offering you $2.50 to quit! No, no, wait! He's going higher! He's going all the way to $3 if you quit now!

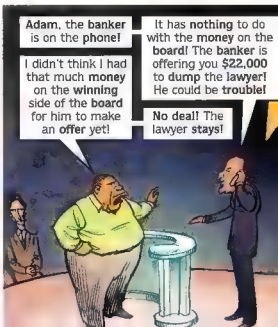
No deal!
Adam's a brave guy! He rejected the bank's offer of $3! And trust me: he may never get an offer that high again! Adam, pick your next case!
21!
The lock on 21 is broken. pick another one!
22!
Case #22 is the model's make-up case! She got confused backstage! Pick another one!
Case #26!
26 has those rusty hinges that sound like nails on a blackboard! I can't stand that sound! Don't open it! Pick another one!
13!
13? Are you crazy? 13's an unlucky number! Pick another number!
errr...
26
13

SUMO


I want 15!
Good choice! Amy, open the case!
Howdy, you must have your cards mixed up, I'm Annie, and I have case #19! Mandy has case #15!
Oh, it doesn't matter! Go ahead, Annie, open case #19!
19

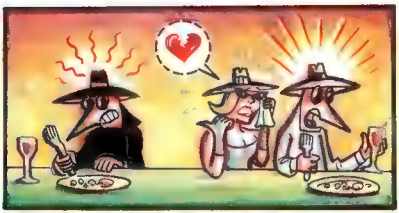
Howdy, I'm so glad you had Annie open case #19! There's only $5 in it! What a break for me! I get rid of another low amount!
But I was wrong to make you choose case #19 when you wanted case #15! So we've decided to open case #15 which was $1,000,000! Let's take that off the board!
$ 5
$1,000,000

Contestants always bring along family or friends to help them decide what to do! Adam, tell us who you've brought!
I brought a fortune teller, a psychic and a lawyer!
I'm Claire Voyant, a fortune teller! I must say it looks like Adam is not doing well!
I'm Allison Dubois, a psychic, and I agree Adam is not in top form!
I agree with the fortune teller and the psychic! I'm a lawyer and it just cost Adam $5,000 for me to say this!

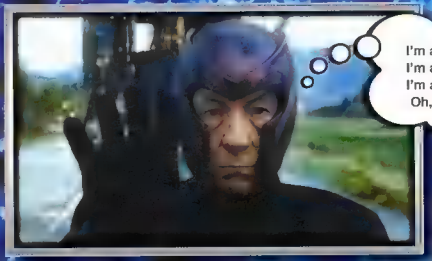

Adam, the banker is on the phone!
I didn't think I had that much money on the winning side of the board for him to make an offer yet!
It has nothing to do with the money on the board! The banker is offering you $22,000 to dump the lawyer! He could be trouble!
No deal! The lawyer stays!

You're playing hardball, Adam, but so are we! Throw six more cases off the set!
And can you translate those amounts into U.S. Currency!
Okay, but we'll have to eliminate another three cases! By the way, your lawyer just left with two of our models! Tough break!
Here's your final board, Adam: three cases left! One contains $5, one contains $500 and one contains $50,000!
Where are the cases with the big dollar amounts?
Adam, I just host the show! I can't answer technical questions! Besides the phone is ringing!
5
10
25
50
75
100
200
300
400
500
750
10,000
25,000
50,000
75,000
100,000
200,000
300,000
400,000
500,000
750,000
Tunisian D
Ukraine H
Zambian
Romanian
Phillippin
Samoan
The banker says you have a one-in-three chance of winning $50,000! But he doesn't want you to go home with $50,000! So he's offering you a $22,000 CD with 6.5% interest compounded daily for 2,300 days! And he wants your life-changing decision right...after this commercial!
Adam, I have to tell you that the offer from the bank is less now because during the commercial the odds changed in favor of the bank!
How could the odds change in favor of the bank? They were 1 to 1 that I would win $50,000, and I haven't opened any cases!
I'm afraid that was my fault, Adam! During the commercial, the case I was holding accidentally fell open, so it had to be removed from the game! Unfortunately, it was the one with $50,000!
So now you have a 50/50 chance that you're going to win $5 or $500! Because the odds of you winning anything more than a paltry $500 are small, the banker has gone home! And so have the friends you brought! So you might as well open the case you have to see what you won!
$50000
I don't know how it happened, Howdy, but my case has ONE MILLION DOLLARS inside!
Holy &^%$!! That's never supposed to happen! But in an astonishing turn of events like this, there's another button on the desk that I've been instructed to push!
$1000,000
BOOOOM!!!!
It's rare, but yes, sometimes our cases do blow up! But you don't go home empty-handed! In situations like this, we go back to what we feel was in the previous case! So Adam, here's your $5 and thanks for playing DULL OR NOT DULL!

SPY
VS
SPY
VS
SPY

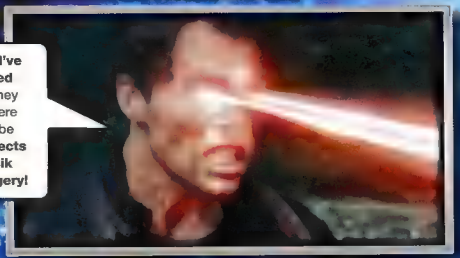


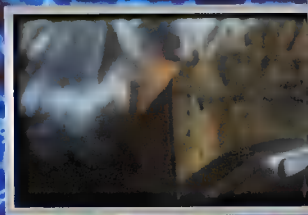
KUPER

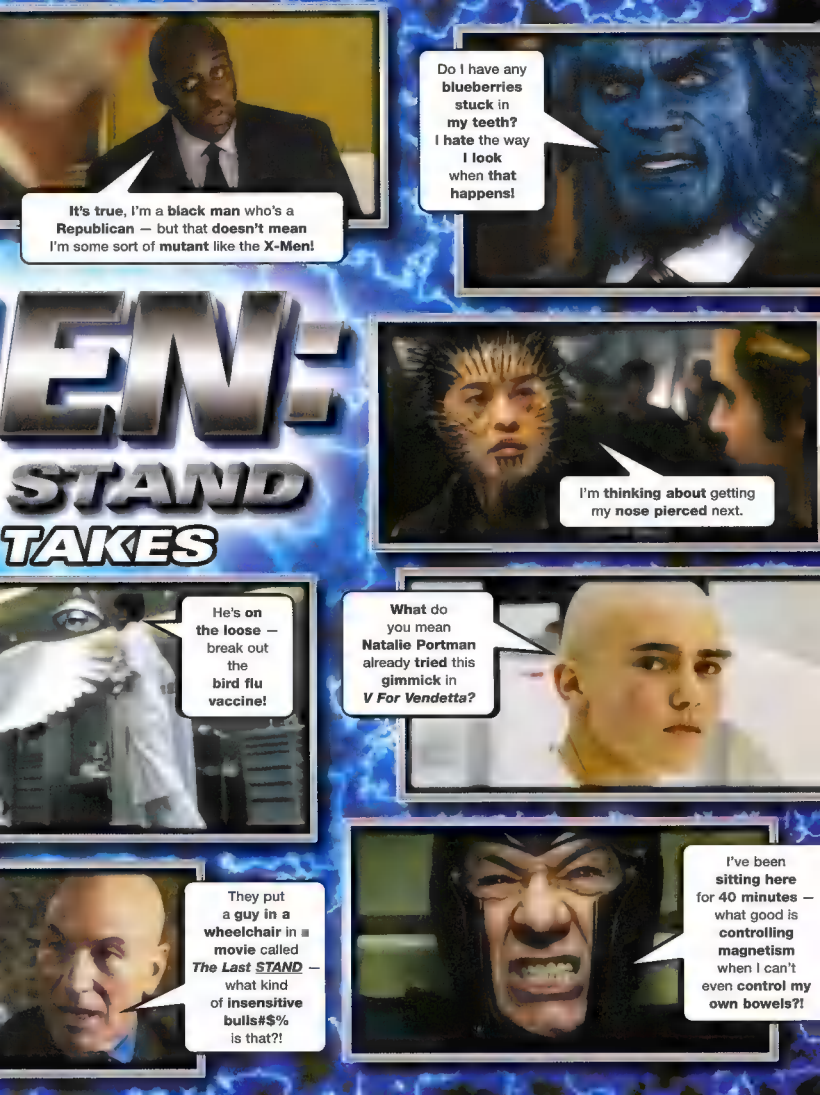

I'm a **respected** Shakespearean actor,
I'm a **respected** Shakespearean actor,
I'm a **respected** Shakespearean actor...
Oh, **who** am I **kidding** — I'm a **hack!**

THE SOUND OF MUTANTS DEPT.

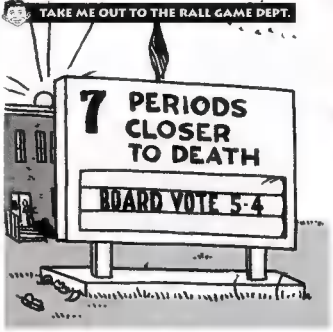
MAD's ALL-TOO-HUMAN X-M THE LAST OUT

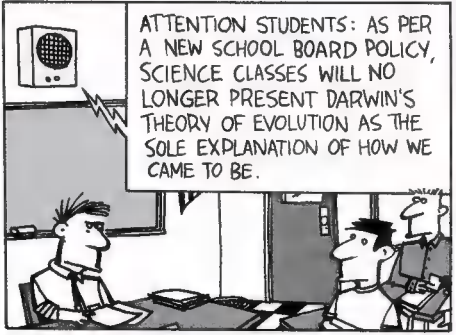


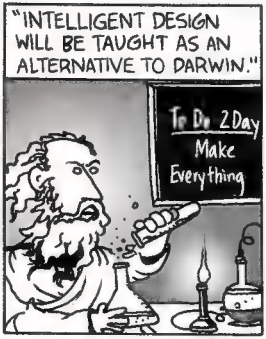



It's true, I'm a black man who's a Republican — but that doesn't mean I'm some sort of mutant like the X-Men!
Do I have any blueberries stuck in my teeth? I hate the way I look when that happens!
EN:
STAND
TAKES
I'm thinking about getting my nose pierced next.
He's on the loose — break out the bird flu vaccine!
What do you mean Natalie Portman already tried this gimmick in V For Vendetta?
They put a guy in a wheelchair in a movie called The Last STAND — what kind of insensitive bulls#$% is that?!
I've been sitting here for 40 minutes — what good is controlling magnetism when I can't even control my own bowels?!

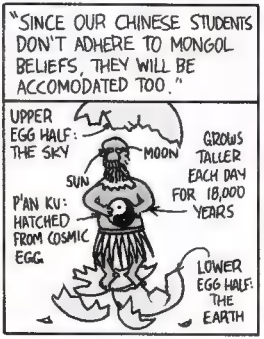
Mona E. Neuman

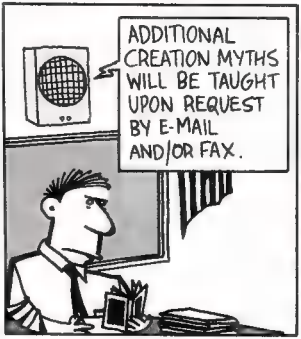



ATTENTION STUDENTS: AS PER A NEW SCHOOL BOARD POLICY, SCIENCE CLASSES WILL NO LONGER PRESENT DARWIN'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION AS THE SOLE EXPLANATION OF HOW WE CAME TO BE.



"TO BE FAIR TO OUR ASIAN STUDENTS, SO WILL THE MONGOLIAN CREATIONIST MYTH OF ULGEN TENGER."
ULGEN TENGER, RULER OF THE UPPER WORLD, ASKED A LOON— AND LATER A DUCK— TO PULL UP LAND FROM THE LOWER WORLD.
JUST AS I THOUGHT!


"SINCE OUR CHINESE STUDENTS DON'T ADHERE TO MONGOL BELIEFS, THEY WILL BE ACCOMODATED TOO."
UPPER EGG HALF: THE SKY
MOON
SUN
P'AN KU: HATCHED FROM COSMIC EGG.
GROWS TALLER EACH DAY FOR 18,000 YEARS
LOWER EGG HALF: THE EARTH



WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF TREATING EVERY IDEA AS EQUALLY VALID?
WELL, THERE ARE SEVERAL THEORIES ABOUT THAT...
Saturn
Jupiter
GREAT...

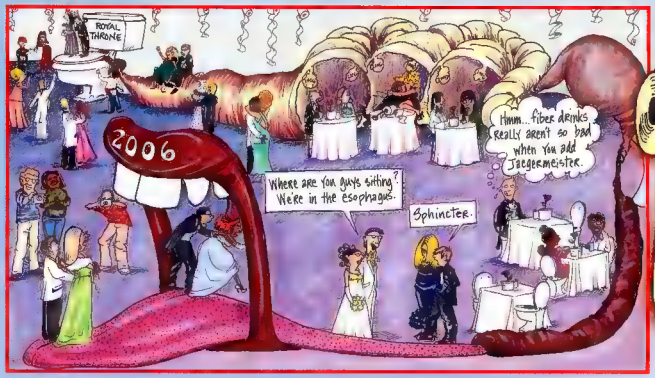
WRITER AND ARTIST: TED RALL

America's Least Favorite Prom Themes

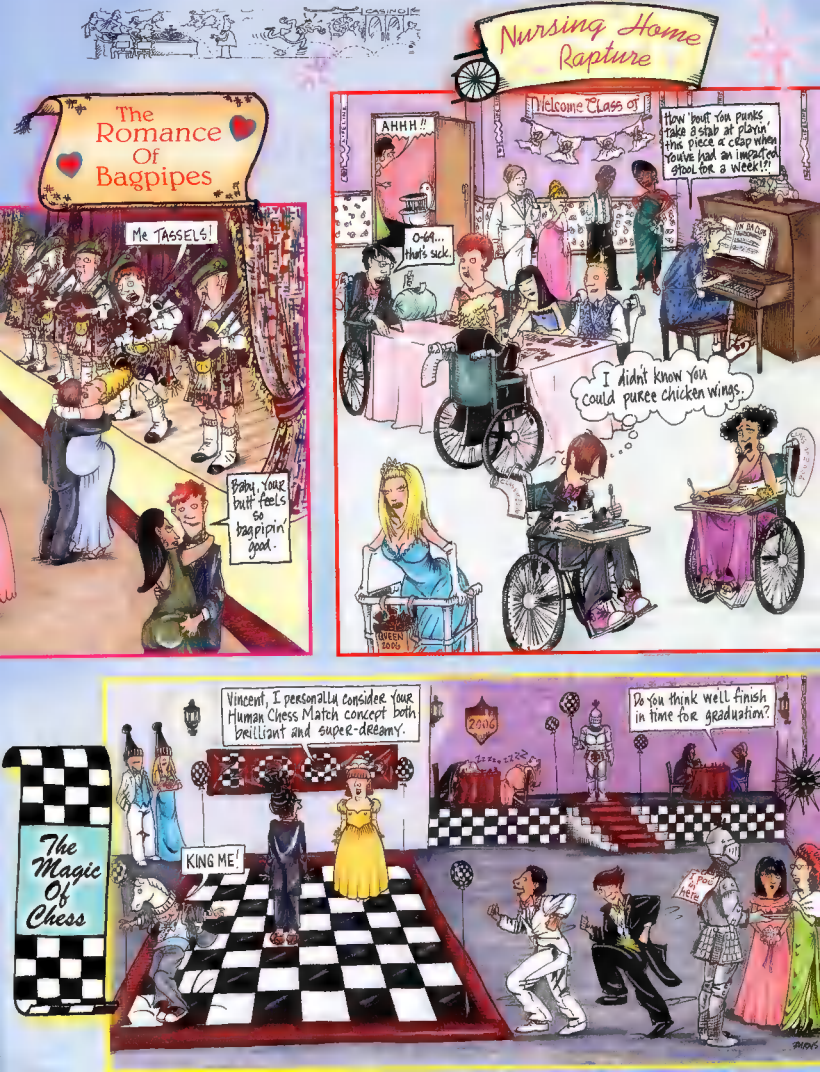
It's prom season! And that means one thing — you're probably not going! Well, two things — it's also time to pick a theme for your prom! Here's a tip, though — it's going to be lame no matter what you choose, so do yourself a favor and just pick "Under the Sea" or "Starry, Starry Night" or something and steer clear of...

WRITER AND ARTIST: TERESA BURNS PARKHURST

OUR ENCHANTING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Misdemeanors
Felonies
My mom was wondering if we'd be getting wallet-sized prints.
Man - I just went out to get my inhaler and they stun-gunned me!
Nice forensic terminology Kevin, but NO - I do not want a sample of your DNA!


ROYAL THRONE
2006
Where are you guys sitting? We're in the esophagus.
Sphincter.
Hmm... fiber drinks really aren't so bad when you add Jagermeister.
Dancing Through The Digestive Tract

An Evening In Baghdad
You know what Jason? I don't really give a care that you think this is cool - You ruined my last dress with grass stains, now it's gun powder and sand!
PHOTO SHOOT
Care to dance?
Sorry, I'm a hostage.
Bitch. Like I haven't heard that one before.
Oh cool - a smoke machine!
Actually, it's a torched oil field simulator.
I think these guys played at my Grampa's funeral
2006
I kind of like this version of "Stairway to Heaven."
A Time For Us At The Petting Zoo
Did you see where the bathroom is?
We're dancing on it.
Ooh - [illegible] steamy.
2006


The Romance Of Bagpipes
Me TASSELS!
Baby, your butt feels so bagpipin' good.
Nursing Home Rapture
Welcome Class of
AHHH!!
How 'bout you punks take a stab at playin' this piece a crap when you've had an impacted stool for a week!?!
O-ew... That's sick.
I didn't know you could puree chicken wings.
QUEEN 2006
The Magic Of Chess
Vincent, I personally consider your Human Chess Match concept both brilliant and super-dreamy.
KING ME!
2006
Do you think we'll finish in time for graduation?
I HOPE SO HERE!!!

People talk about how difficult it is to have gay parents. But that's so narrow-minded! It's difficult to have parents, PERIOD! And while parents can be great, they can also be a real pain — and gay parents are no exception, as you'll see in our insightful evaluation...

Having &

The Advantages

Advantage: *Though it's not impossible, it's highly unlikely that your parents will at some point turn into Conservative Republicans.*

Advantage: *Having two male parents in the house means no inane lectures about leaving the toilet seat up.*

Advantage: *Since most religions consider them an "abomination of the Lord," most gay parents won't be nagging you to go to church.*

Advantage: *Your mother can't threaten you with "Wait 'til your father gets home!"*

Advantage: *In Liberal circles, having gay parents is the next best thing to being a downtrodden minority.*

Advantage: *It's a well-known statistical fact that Halloween costumes made by gay parents net 43% more candy.*

WRITER: BARRY LIEBMANN ARTIST: RICK TULKA

Gay Parents—
The Disadvantages

Disadvantage: *With gay parents, your room not only has to be clean, it has to be FABULOUS.*

Disadvantage: *When introducing your parents to disapproving friends, it's easy to forget which one is supposed to be your "dad" and which one is supposed to be your "live-in uncle."*

Disadvantage: *Not only do you have to buy two presents for Mother's Day, you also have to get Father's Day gifts for the sperm donor and the technicians at the in-vitro clinic.*

Disadvantage: *Your horn-dog friends won't be able to look at your mothers without fantasizing about them having sex.*

Disadvantage: *You think tube socks are a terrible birthday gift? Wait until you get a dozen copies of* Heather Has Two Mommies.

Disadvantage: *Every other kid is allowed to be ashamed of their parents, but if you are, you're labeled a homophobe.*

IN BLOG WE TRUST DEPT.

Planet TAD!!!!!

http://www.galaxyo'blogs.com/planettad

Search

Planet TAD!!!!!

[About Me]

[Name|Tad]
[Grade|9]
[Favorite aircraft|Flying squirrel]

[21 May|**10:37am**]

[mood| dizzy]

[22 May|**02:58pm**]

[mood| irked]

[23 May|**08:03pm**]

[mood| pseudo-sad]

[24 May|**05:26pm**]

I wonder how it is that I'm [illegible] all [illegible] their names. Like, [illegible] they get to [illegible] their own? I'm sure that [illegible] wasn't named "Storm" by [illegible] parents, and coincidentally, wound up being able [illegible] control [illegible] weather. I bet there was some time [illegible] all [illegible] them where they tried out different names [illegible] see if they would fit. Like, for a couple [illegible] weeks [illegible] everyone calling him "Shades", and [illegible] went around practicing signing his name as "Slicey-Hands", just [illegible] see if that seemed like a good fit [illegible] him.

[25 May|**04:33pm**]

[**mood**| slightly irregular]

After school today, Mom took me to [illegible] to get a new suit for great-aunt Sophie's funeral, because I outgrew my last one. Mom always takes me to the outlet mall [illegible] get clothes. One day, when I'm older, I want to wear clothes whose labels don't have [illegible] words "SLIGHTLY IRREGULAR" stamped on them. I wanted [illegible] a bright [illegible] suit [illegible] wears. [illegible] Mom wouldn't let me — she got me a really boring [illegible] grey one instead. When I [illegible] it home and showed my dad, he said, "Are you leaning over to your left?" And I said, "No." That's when we realized that [illegible] right arm was a lot shorter than [illegible] left one. Stupid irregular suit. Now I'm going to have to spend all [illegible] Saturday leaning slightly [illegible] right, to compensate.

[25 May|**07:12pm**]

[**mood**| puzzled]

[illegible]

[26 May|**03:50pm**]

Today in history class we learned about [illegible] which is nowhere near as much [illegible] as the word "party" makes it sound. I guess they were a group [illegible] pioneers who were going across [illegible] country and ran out [illegible] food, so they wound [illegible] eating each other. I think there was more [illegible] the story, [illegible] I spent [illegible] rest of [illegible] period distracted by trying to figure [illegible] how that worked — like, [illegible] they cook the people they ate? Or eat them raw? How [illegible] they decide who'd [illegible] eaten [illegible] who'd [illegible] doing [illegible] eating? Did they just start with [illegible] the guys? [illegible] what? I looked through my textbook [illegible] more information, [illegible] they didn't have anything — not even a recipe. I hate textbooks. They always leave out the most [illegible]

During the era of Manifest Destiny, many pioneers found it hard going on the plains. The notorious Donner Party found itself stranded for a winter, leading them to turn to cannibalism.

I also think that [illegible] Donner Party's situation would have made [illegible] best episode [illegible]

[27 May|**03:02pm**]

[**mood**| relieved]

Well, today was the funeral. Everyone said nice things about great-aunt Sophie, but the truth is, she smoked nonstop and hit [illegible] terrier with her cane and was super-mean. She wasn't a nice lady. But I guess you can't say that at a funeral. So everyone pretended [illegible] really [illegible] Except [illegible] terrier. He looked happier than [illegible] ever seen him. He spent [illegible] whole funeral licking [illegible] hands non-stop. We all pretended [illegible] to notice.

WRITER: TIM CARVELL ARTIST: BRIAN DURNIAK

MAD'S CLUELESS OUTTAKES FROM THE DA VINCI CODE

I don't care if it is a cathedral — I gotta pee, so I'm peein'!
Lord Jesus, I've done everything you've asked of me — yet you still afflicted me with backne!
I warned the poor bastard this would happen if he slept with Paris Hilton!
I still can't crack the code, but I'm pretty sure I see a hint of nipple!
Cool — it's Jesus' BlackBerry!
That does it — from now on, I let the professionals do my leg waxing!

Sweeeet – Nevada! I don't have this state quarter yet!
If you think this is freaky, you should see the tattoo he's got on his backside – Foghorn Leghorn!
Superman, I know you're not due for another month or so, but I could use your help now!
Don't be afraid, that's just director Ron Howard's creepy brother Clint – he puts him in all his movies!
I'm from the Catholic League – we warned you to identify this film as fiction!
Run, Forrest, run!

GO FETCH!

THE LATEST STUFF YOU MAY (OR MAY NOT) WANT TO CHASE DOWN!

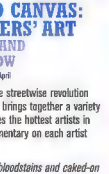
GAME

LARA CROFT TOMB RAIDER: LEGEND

PS2, PSP, Xbox, Xbox 360, PC • Eidos

The Hype: Lara Croft is presented like never before with new graphic and animation sets, depicting Lara in the finest fidelity to date. Follow Lara as she travels the globe in search of one of history's greatest artifacts. With guns blazing, Lara must use her athletic ability and intellectual wits to explore vast, treacherous tombs, riddled with challenging puzzles and deadly traps.

The Snipe: *Right. Like it's her "intellectual wits" that everyone is impressed by. What they're impressed by might* rhyme *with wits, but that's about as close as it gets.*



BOOK

CONCRETE TO CANVAS: SKATEBOARDERS' ART

JO WATERHOUSE AND DAVID PENHALLOW

Watson-Guptill • $19.95 • 128 pages • April

The Hype: Be a part of the streetwise revolution in art and see how this book brings together a variety of skateboard art and features the hottest artists in the medium. You'll find commentary on each artist and examples of their work.

The Snipe: *Hey, we have bloodstains and caked-on hair on our board — does that count as art??*

MUSIC

JUST LIKE THE FAMBLY CAT

GRANDADDY

V2 Records • May 9

The Hype: Grandaddy calls it quits with this, their fourth album. Frontman Jason Lytle says the title refers to how, when cats get sick, they'll just quietly disappear — and is a metaphor for the band's departure.

The Snipe: *Cats quietly disappear when they get sick? Really? Ours not only sticks around, but ralphs all over the couch.*

BOOK

ONE FINE STOOGE: A FRIZZY LIFE IN PICTURES

STEVE COX AND JIM TERRY

Cumberland House • $24.95 • 328 pages • April

The Hype: It's the life story of Larry Fine — the original frizzy-haired member of the classic comedy team The Three Stooges.

The Snipe: *Nyuck, nyuck, nyuck — doink!*

DVD

TOMMY LEE GOES TO COLLEGE

Image Entertainment • April 25

The Hype: The University of Nebraska at Lincoln welcomes a new student to its campus — notorious Motley Crüe rocker Tommy Lee! Twice divorced and the single father of two boys, this fish-out-of-water flounders as he faces the same challenges any normal freshman — including finding a roommate, trying out for the marching band and cramming for finals.

The Snipe: *It's too bad none of Tommy Lee's finals involved steering a boat — he could pass that exam with both hands tied behind his back!*

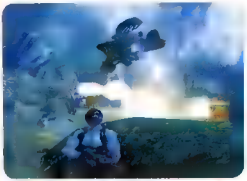
GAME

ROGUE TROOPER

PS2, Xbox, PC • Eidos

The Hype: Rogue, a biologically-engineered clone troop is determined to hunt down the traitor general who sent his brothers-in-arms to their deaths. Rogue's arsenal includes encoded bio-chips containing the digitized personalities of his fallen comrades, which are implanted in his gun (Gunnar), helmet (Helm) and backpack (Bagman), and each offer their full military experience at the player's fingertips.

The Snipe: *So, if his backpack is named Bagman, his gun is named Gunnar, and his helmet is named Helm, we can only guess what part of his uniform is named Private Johnson.*



BOOK

SPORTS OFF-CENTER

SAYITAINTSO.COM PRESENTS A SCRAPBOOK OF MODERN SPORTS CULTURE

KEN WIDMANN AND DAN APPEL

Three Rivers Press • $14.95 • 75 pages • May

The Hype: This spoof of today's sports scene (from baseball and football to chess and video fishing) captures the nuances and foibles of our sports-obsessed culture.

The Snipe: *Great, just what we need* — The Onion *in a jock strap!*

DVD

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
THE BEST OF COMMERCIAL PARODIES

Universal Studios Home Entertainment • May 23

The Hype: From subtle to outrageous, silly to realistic, commercial parodies have been one of the signatures of *Saturday Night Live* since its creation. Now you can enjoy favorites like "Colon Blow," "Oops I Crapped My Pants" and "Schmitt's Gay" again and again.

The Snipe: *Given the phenomenal success of* Brokeback Mountain, *there's probably a deal already in the works to market Schmitt's Gay for real!*

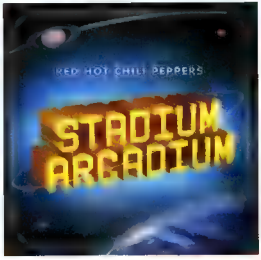
MUSIC

STADIUM ARCADIUM
RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

Warner Bros. Music • May 9

The Hype: The Chili Peppers set out to make a simple 13-song rock album — but after unexpectedly recording 38 tracks, they toyed with the idea of releasing *three* albums. In the end, they picked the best 25 songs for this long-awaited double-CD.

The Snipe: *It's a shame that all artists don't whittle down their CDs to only the best stuff — the next Black Eyed Peas album would clock in at 80 seconds, tops!*



GAME

METROID PRIME HUNTERS

Nintendo DS • Nintendo

The Hype: A mighty race known as the Alimbics, now extinct, has left behind relics of their once-powerful warrior culture. Now bounty hunters from across the galaxy are racing against each other to lay claim to these relics to harness their power for themselves. Samus Aran's mission is to keep the ultimate power from falling into the wrong hands.

The Snipe: *Too late. Dick Cheney's already got it.*

ON SALE NOW
MAD KIDS
THE SUITE LIFE'S ZACK & CODY'S DROP-IN
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIE
GIANT POSTER INSIDE!
MAD!
Featuring:
Spy Vs. Spy Jr!
Game On!
Alfred's Brain Dra
PLUS:
An Exclusive Interview with THE SUITE LIFE OF ZACK & CODY'S
DYLAN AND COLE SPROUSE!
THE STUPIDI DOESN'T STOP
WHAT, ME WORRY?

ON SALE NOW!

10 MUTANT-FILLED PAGES ON X-MEN!

Classic Spoofs of:

MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE!

THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE!

Plus:

HOWARD STERN!

SPY VS. SPY!

AND MUCH MORE!

BUY IT NOW — CLAWS WE SAID SO!

GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH!

COMEDY

EN GARDE, SOCIETY!

EUGENE MIRMAN

Sub Pop Records • May 9

The Hype: Recorded live ■ Piano's in New York City in October of 2005, *En Garde, Society!* is Mirman's second full-length solo comedy album (with DVD supplement) and his first for Sub Pop Records.

The Snipe: En Garde, Society!: *a threatening message towards the U.S. — that's in French, t'boot? This guy'll be shackled in Guantanamo before summer!*

BOOK

TOYS

JIM CRAWFORD AND GREGORY BLUM

Rizzoli Universe • $22.50 • ■■ pages • April

The Hype: Get a look at the coolest and most coveted collectible toys being made today. Using images and interviews with the artists, see how this has grown into a worldwide phenomenon.

The Snipe: *Stop playing with that toy and put it on a nice, safe shelf somewhere — it may become a collectible!*

GAME

METAL GEAR SOLID: DIGITAL GRAPHIC NOVEL

PSP • Konami

The Hype: Compiling the previously released *Metal Gear Solid* comic book series, *Metal Gear Solid: Digital Graphic Novel* includes dramatic animations and sound effects. As viewers progress through the story, they can scan the pages using the PSP's analog stick to uncover points of interest. As they discover hidden content, they will complete the Metal Gear matrix and unlock additional multimedia content.

The Snipe: *Comic books on PSP? What's next, MAD Magazines on DVD? (How's that for a shameless plug?)*

HIS HAIR SEEMS AWESOME BUT THE FUNK FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TOO FAR
NO, YOUR LITTLE PIGTAILS ARE PERFECT
TOO MANY DISCREPANCIES! IMPOSSIBLE
I'M AFRAID ABOUT MY HAIRLINE
THEN KILL YOURSELF, SUCH

DVD

AMERICAN DAD! VOLUME ONE

FOX Home Entertainment • April 25

The Hype: From the creative minds behind *Family Guy* comes *American Dad!*, featuring CIA operative Stan Smith, his outrageous family and Roger, the alcoholic extra-terrestrial who lives with them. Whether it's rigging elections, erasing memories, casing sleazy strip clubs or staging "dum fights," it's all in a day's work for Stan.

The Snipe: *With the sad state of the CIA right now, even the most outrageous American Dad! plotlines seem tame by comparison!*

THE MUST-HAVE!

BARREL FUNNEL, 2-GALLON

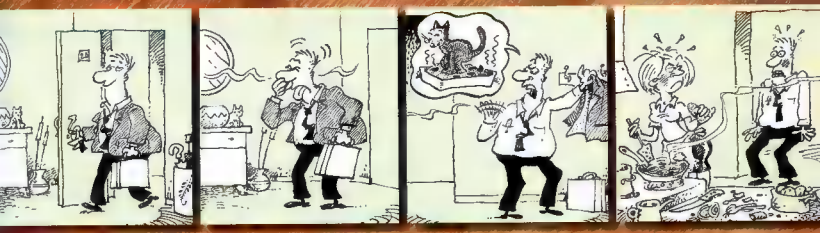
WIRTHCO

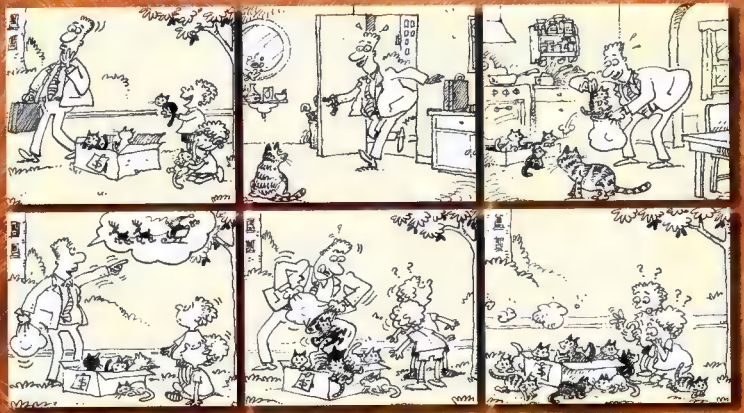
The Hype: E-Z UZ Smart 2-gallon non-tipping barrel funnel prevents overfilling of standard 30- and 55-gallon drums. 2 in. NPS non-seizing brass threads affix funnel to drum. A vent tube controls backsplash and promotes faster draining. Made of durable chemical-resistant polyethylene. Height above barrel is 11 1/2 in. Includes ■■ attached cover when not in use. Mfg Warranty: 12 months parts/12 months labor.

The Snipe: *A labor warranty on a funnel? What, do they have you call funnel support and put you on hold while you wait to talk to a funnel tech in India?*

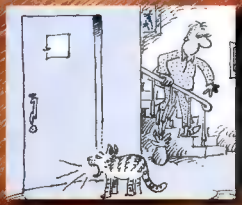
GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH! GO FETCH!

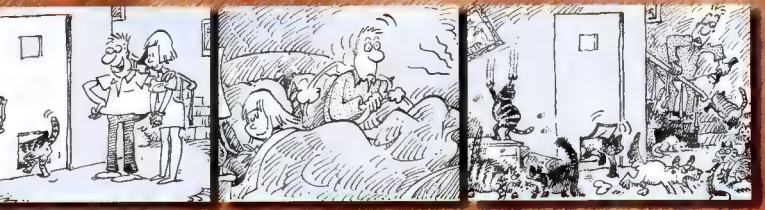
SERGIO ARAGONES PRESENTS A MAD LOOK AT CATS





WRITER AND ARTIST: SERGIO ARAGONES





ANIMAL
CONTROL
CITY POU
MARK

CRAIGS
ATCHOO!
ATCHOO!!
CAGE
KNOCK
KNOCK
PET FOOD
CAT EATER
VET
PET SHOP
MICE
HUMANE SOCIETY OJAI
ADOPTION CENTER
PUMA
?
?
?
ARRIGONES

Here's your problem: You have a "creative gift" inside straining to get out and *American Idol* could be your ticket to stardom, except for one thing: you can't sing. In fact, your voice sounds like William Hung getting his epiglottis caught in a rotating ceiling fan.

But that's no reason to give up. Well, it's okay to give up on singing, because you suck. But you can still be part of the recording, management and merchandising conglomerate that locks up the contestants' names and likenesses into contractual servitude until the year 2076 (aka "the *American Idol* family").

If you can crack the code of what makes an *American Idol* song work, you can make a ton of money in the business and experience the thrill of watching some arm-flailing lounge act wannabe get all the credit!

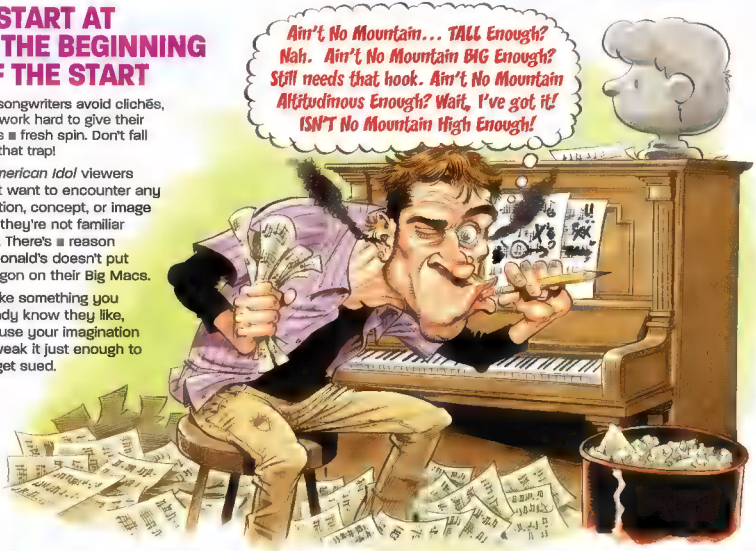
Of course, it takes hard work to write a hit like Fantasia's *I Believe*. Do you have what it takes to come up with this kind of compelling lyrics:

1. START AT THE BEGINNING OF THE START

Top songwriters avoid clichés, and work hard to give their lyrics ■ fresh spin. Don't fall into that trap!

American Idol viewers don't want to encounter any emotion, concept, or image that they're not familiar with. There's ■ reason McDonald's doesn't put tarragon on their Big Macs.

Take something you already know they like, and use your imagination to tweak it just enough to not get sued.


Ain't No Mountain... TALL Enough? Nah. Ain't No Mountain BIG Enough? Still needs that hook. Ain't No Mountain Altitudinous Enough? Wait, I've got it! ISN'T No Mountain High Enough!

2. GET METEOROLOGICAL

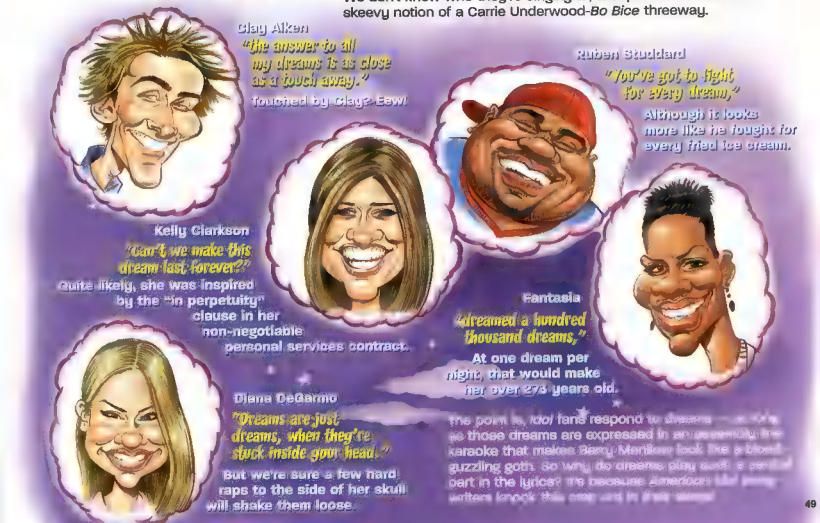
Only agoraphobic shut-ins have the time to vote 600 times on toll-free hotlines. And all they know about life is what they see through the window. So concentrate on the weather. Give them descriptions of the rain, stars, dawn and clouds. You'll probably want to skip over the slush, sandstorms and nor'easters.

3. HIGHER THE HANDICAPPED

American Idol ballads are fanatically devoted to height, whether it's lifting me up, soaring up above, or rising like the highest star. Please remember that, in contradiction to the previous 40 years of popular music, the word "higher" may only refer to the noble elevation of the human spirit. The only pharmaceutical that suits *American Idol* purposes is the Botox that keeps Paula Abdul's encouraging smile from drooping.

4. A NIGHTMARE ON FOX-TV: THE DREAM WARRIORS

Seen one way, *American Idol* is all about making dreams come true. Every hit song they release includes lyrics about dreaming dreamers and their dreamy dreams, up to and including the simultaneous double-release of "Inside Your Heaven." Both Carrie Underwood and Bo Bice swore to someone that "all my dreams are in your eyes." We don't know who they're singing to, except that it raises the skeevy notion of a Carrie Underwood-*Bo Bice* threeway.

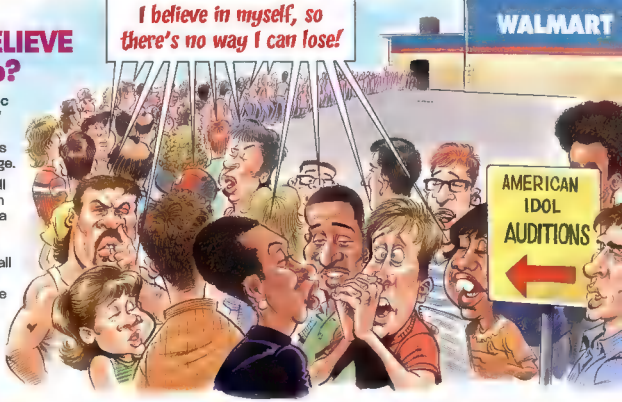

Clay Aiken
"the answer to all my dreams is as close as a touch away."
touched by Clay? Eew!
Ruben Studdard
"You've got to fight for every dream,"
Although it looks more like he fought for every fried ice cream.
Kelly Clarkson
"Can't we make this dream last forever?"
Quite likely, she was inspired by the "in perpetuity" clause in her non-negotiable personal services contract.
Fantasia
"dreamed a hundred thousand dreams,"
At one dream per night, that would make her over 273 years old.
Diana DeGarmo
"Dreams are just dreams, when they're stuck inside your head."
But we're sure a few hard raps to the side of her skull will shake them loose.

the point is, *Idol* fans respond to dreams — no wonder those dreams are expressed in an excessively, tre karaoke that makes Barry Manilow look like a blood-guzzling goth. So why do dreams play such a central part in the lyrics? It's because *American Idol* song-writers knock this crap out in their sleep.

5. CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS $#!%?o?

The white trash demographic that supports *American Idol* isn't too big on "owning," or "investing." But "believing" is something in their price range.

American Idol loves to sell believing. And once you can overlook the small detail of a hope-crushing elimination tourney that creates 6,000 losers for every winner, it's all about believing in yourself! And by "success," of course we mean...well, anything.



6. LOWER THE MUSICAL BAR

Always be sure to write for your core audience of hopeless wannabes. Their prospects are low, so set your lyrical sights even lower. Listen to the hit singles of Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood and Josh Gracin. Settle for "A moment like this." "Every bit of air you're breathin'." "The ground beneath me."

Anything simple, inexpensive, and totally meaningless will do. After all, you're not appealing to discriminating aesthetes here. The fans who love this music are the kind of people who still talk about the unbelievable gourmet meal they had four years ago at the Rainforest Cafe.

These kinds of listeners are going to put themselves inside the song. So, be realistic! Here are some of the mundane themes that those human wrecks MIGHT have a shot at achieving:

♪ Have you ever felt the magic that touches everyone? ♫
♪ I finally finished reading Tuesdays with Morrrrrie!
♪ Piggly Wiggly took myyyyy expired coupon!
♪ I thought I'd lost my keys, but they were on the taaaable!

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I thought I'd lost my keys, but they were on the taaaable!

7. THE TEMPLATE OF BOILERPLATE

Many catchy songs are beloved for their intricate lyrical structures and witty rhyming skills. But can any of them measure up to the Clay Aiken classic that ends with "I would be the smartest man / If I was invisible / Wait, I already am"? No chance!

Study the technique in Clay's song, and learn from it. There's an internal rhyme. Well, there would be, if "man" rhymed with "am." Then there's the use of iambs, a poetic rhythm which mimics the syllabic flow of speech, or at least until that falls apart in the second line. Then there's the obvious thematic connection between intelligence and invisibility...okay, this isn't going anywhere.

The only rule is, there are no rules! (Except the rule whereby you sign away your copyrights to *American Idol*'s publishing division.)

8. THE PERFECT ALL-PURPOSE *AMERICAN IDOL* HIT SINGLE

Oddly enough, no *American Idol* song has followed each and every one of the above rules. Until now.

We've taken the liberty of writing a hit song that includes EVERY ingredient for success. It can't miss! And we look forward to hearing this surefire classic blasting out of the mouth of Ace, or Ayla, or Bucky, or Snapper, or Trixie, or Goober or whichever interchangeable automaton wins the game this time. Call us, Simon!

WHEN YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU BELIEVE

Like a rat without his fleas, or a Whopper with no cheese
I'm incomplete
Like hockey with no brawl, or a bladder with no gall
I taste defeat

Lift yourself up high, from the stinkpit that you see
You're not really alive, until you're on TV

Chorus:
When you believe that you can believe
That's when you start believing
When you sing what they tell you to sing
You'd better do some deep breathing

Dreamers' dreams aren't just a dream
If you can really fly
Gibberish can sound deep if you sing it extra
High
(ee-yigh-ee-yi-yi-eeee-igh-igh-igh-eeee)

Keep looking for the rainbow and find that golden pot
Hey, what better option has a feebstain like you got?

(Repeat chorus)

Hold onto your heart, in a metaphorical way
Leave your lungs alone, inside your chest they should stay
You'll need them to scream, and make all of your dreams come true
By crushing the losers, whose dreams were identical to you

(Repeat chorus)

Did you ever know that heaven had a hotline?
Or that the heart's a muscle filled with nerve?
Did you realize you're allowed to vote a hundred times?
'Cause 1-800 lines aren't just for pervs
And our country gets the stars that it deserves

(Repeat chorus)
(Repeat chorus)
(Repeat chorus)
(Repeat chorus)
(Repeat chorus)
(Repeat chorus)

HERE COME DA JUGS DEPT.

The Supreme Court has the final say on the most important legal cases of the country — oh, and they also decide if a peroxide-stained, silicon-pumped, walking trainwreck should inherit half the fortune of the ancient billionaire she married! Proving that although justice may be blind, it's not deaf, here's what was...

Overheard at Anna Nicole Smith's Supreme Court Case

All rise... no pun intended.

Either I have the wrong file, or this lady is being accused of slaughtering thousands of Kurds!

Would Exhibits "A" and "B" please approach the bench?

So you're telling this Court that Dan Brown stole your idea for a novel, too?

Well, I can either find for a wealthy white person, or take away the rights of a woman, so Republicans should be happy whatever the outcome!

No, Miss Smith, I'm not ninety yet, but I AM getting up there... why do you ask?

I ask that the last sultry pout be stricken from the record!

I beg the Court to find for my client based on humanitarian reasons—without the money, she'll have to go back to acting!

The Supreme Court deciding the fate of an airhead opportunist from Texas. Who could have seen *that* coming?

Is there a snack shop in this place? The TRIMSPA is starting to wear off!

WRITER: JESS KRUSE ARTIST: DREW FRIEDMAN

THIS COMING MAY, WHAT GROUP OF MUTANTS WILL YOU BE SEEING IN EVERY MULTIPLEX?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

MAD FOLD-IN

The blockbuster movie season is upon us and everyone's flocking to theaters to take in the latest spectacles. There is one group, however, that's sure to stand out at the cinema. To find out who this group of misfits is, fold page in as shown.

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

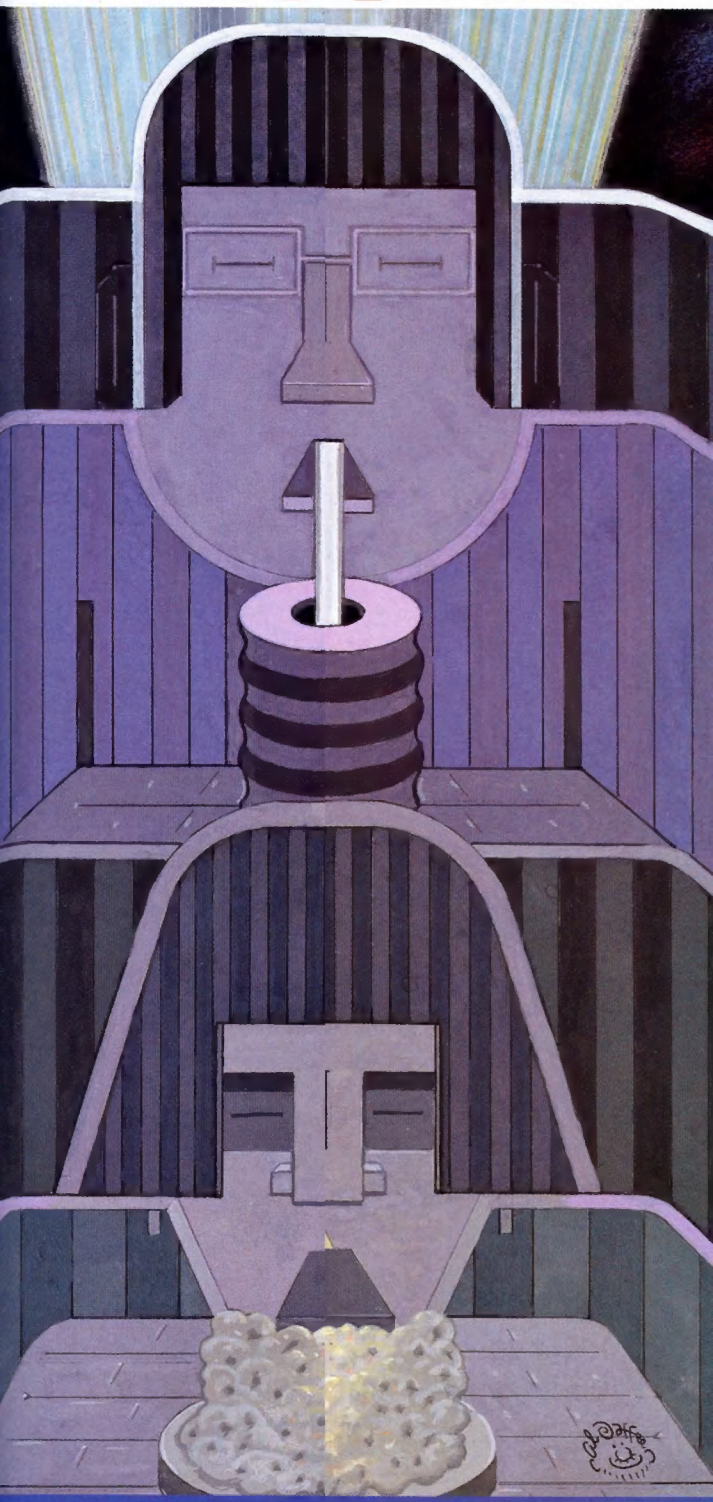
LOCAL THEATERS ARE PACKED. TICKET PURCHASERS SETTLE INTO SEATS AND START GORGING ON POPCORN AND SODA. ON SCREEN, MUTANTS FROM NEAR AND FAR FILL VIEWERS WITH PURE DELIGHT

A WRITER AND ARTIST: AL JAFFEE B

THIS COMING MAY, WHAT GROUP OF MUTANTS WILL YOU BE SEEING IN EVERY MULTIPLEX?

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



LOSERS

ON PROM NIGHT

A B